

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES COMMISSION**  
**NOVEMBER 12, 2024**

---

The meeting of the Public Defender Services Commission was convened at 4:45 p.m., at the Office of Chief Public Defender, Rooms 1008/1011, Hartford, Connecticut.

**Members Present**

Honorable Richard N. Palmer, **Chair**  
Michael Jefferson, Esq.  
Honorable Russell Morin  
Honorable Sheila M. Prats  
Honorable Elliot N. Solomon (via Zoom)  
Herman Woodard, Jr., Esq.

**Others Present**

John R. Day, Acting Chief Public Defender  
Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, Director, Legal Counsel  
Erin M. Ryan, Director of Human Resources  
Stephen Hunt, Chief Fiscal Officer  
Leonie Campbell, Executive Assistant to the Commission  
Attorney Todd Bussert  
Johanna Canning, Senior Assistant Public Defender  
Hartford Judicial District  
Jeffrey LaPierre, Senior Assistant Public Defender  
Milford Judicial District/Geographical Area 22  
Michael Pedevillano, Assistant Public Defender  
Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford  
David Warner, Supervisory Assistant Public Defender  
Geographical Area 14 (Hartford)

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2024 meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Commission acknowledged the submitted FY 25 Budget Summary. There was no question-and-answer segment. Chief Fiscal Officer, Stephen Hunt, was excused from the meeting.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to go into Executive Session at 4:47 p.m. The reason for convening in Executive Session was in accordance with Section 1-200(6)(A) and Section 1-210(b)(10) of the Connecticut General Statutes to discuss the following: Authorizations to Incur Expenses, Ratification of Authorizations to Incur Expenses, Appointments, Reclassifications, Reappointments & Permanent Statuses, Outside Employment Requests, and Educational Leave Requests.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Other attendees included the Acting Chief Public Defender, John R. Day; Director, Legal Counsel, Deborah Del Prete Sullivan; Director of Human Resources, Erin M. Ryan; Attorney Todd Bussert; Senior Assistant Public Defender, Johanna Canning, Hartford Judicial District; Senior Assistant Public Defender, Jeffrey LaPierre, Milford Judicial District/Geographical Area 22; Assistant Public Defender, Michael Pedevillano, Complex Litigation Unit, Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford; and Supervisory Assistant Public Defender, David Warner, Geographical Area 14 (Hartford).

The Commission came out of Executive Session at 8:25 p.m.

Commission Chair, Justice Palmer, informed the Commission of a letter sent to the Acting Chief Public Defender, John R. Day, from State Senator Gordon regarding the recent audit findings of the

Division and to which the Acting Chief Public Defender, John R. Day, had already responded.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED to approve the following Authorizations to Incur Expenses: 11-2024-01; 11-2024-03; 11-2024-04; 11-2024-06; 11-2024-07; 11-2024-08; 11-2024-09; 11-2024-10; 11-2024-11; 11-2024-12; 11-2024-13; 11-2024-14; and 11-2024-15. Commission Chair, Justice Palmer, abstained from the vote in the following Authorization to Incur Expenses: 11-2024-01.

APPROVAL OF EXPENSES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to ratify the following Authorization to Incur Expenses: 11-2024-16.

RATIFICATION OF EXPENSES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to table the following Authorizations to Incur Expenses: 11-2024-02; and 11-2024-05.

TABLING OF EXPENSES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to ratify the appointment of Attorney Ryan Flanagan to the position of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Stamford-Norwalk Judicial District/Geographical Area 1.

RATIFICATION OF ATTY.  
RYAN FLANAGAN

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to ratify the appointment of Roberto A. Ramos Jr. to the position of Social Worker II, Geographical Area 23 (New Haven).

RATIFICATION OF  
ROBERTO A. RAMOS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to ratify the appointment of Richard M. Ferrie to the position of Investigator II, New Haven Judicial District.

RATIFICATION OF  
RICHARD M. FERRIE

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to ratify the appointment of Michael Massaro to the position of Paralegal II, Legal Services Unit, Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford.

RATIFICATION OF  
MICHAEL MASSARO

Upon motion duly made and seconded, in accordance with the recommendation of the Acting Chief Public Defender, it was VOTED unanimously to reappoint the following attorneys to a new four-year term: Assistant Public Defender, Michael Rodrigue, Tolland Judicial District/Geographical Area 19, expiring on 11/20/2028; Senior Assistant Public Defender, Kalisha Raphael, Geographical Area 14 (Hartford), expiring on 11/27/2028; and Assistant Public Defender, Brian Walsh, New Britain Juvenile Matters, expiring on 11/29/2028.

ATTORNEY  
REAPPOINTMENTS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, in accordance with the recommendation of the Acting Chief Public Defender, it was VOTED unanimously to grant permanent status to Investigator I, Jean Louisgene, Geographical Area 12 (Manchester), upon the successful completion of their probationary period.

PERMANENT STATUS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, in accordance with the recommendation of the Acting Chief Public Defender, it was VOTED unanimously to grant permanent status to Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Nathanael Scaniffe, Geographical Area 18 (Torrington), upon the successful completion of his probationary period.

PERMANENT STATUS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, in accordance with the recommendation of the Acting Chief Public Defender, it was VOTED unanimously to grant permanent status to Deputy Assistant

PERMANENT STATUS

Public Defender, Nicole Van Lear, Legal Services Unit, Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford, upon the successful completion of her probationary period.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the outside employment request of Senior Assistant Public Defender, Cynthia M. Barlow, Tolland Judicial District/Geographical Area 19.

APPROVAL OF OUTSIDE  
EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the outside employment request of Investigator II, Michael Carbine, New Haven Judicial District.

APPROVAL OF OUTSIDE  
EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the outside employment request of Social Worker I, Kayla Handberry, Torrington Judicial District/Geographical Area 18.

APPROVAL OF OUTSIDE  
EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the outside employment request of Public Defender Secretary II, Yizuelis Williams, Geographical Area 7 (Meriden).

APPROVAL OF OUTSIDE  
EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED to appoint Attorney Todd Bussert to the position of Director of Complex Litigation, Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford. Commission member, Honorable Russell Morin, abstained from the vote.

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.  
TODD BUSSERT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John R. Day  
Acting Chief Public Defender